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Despatch No. 80.



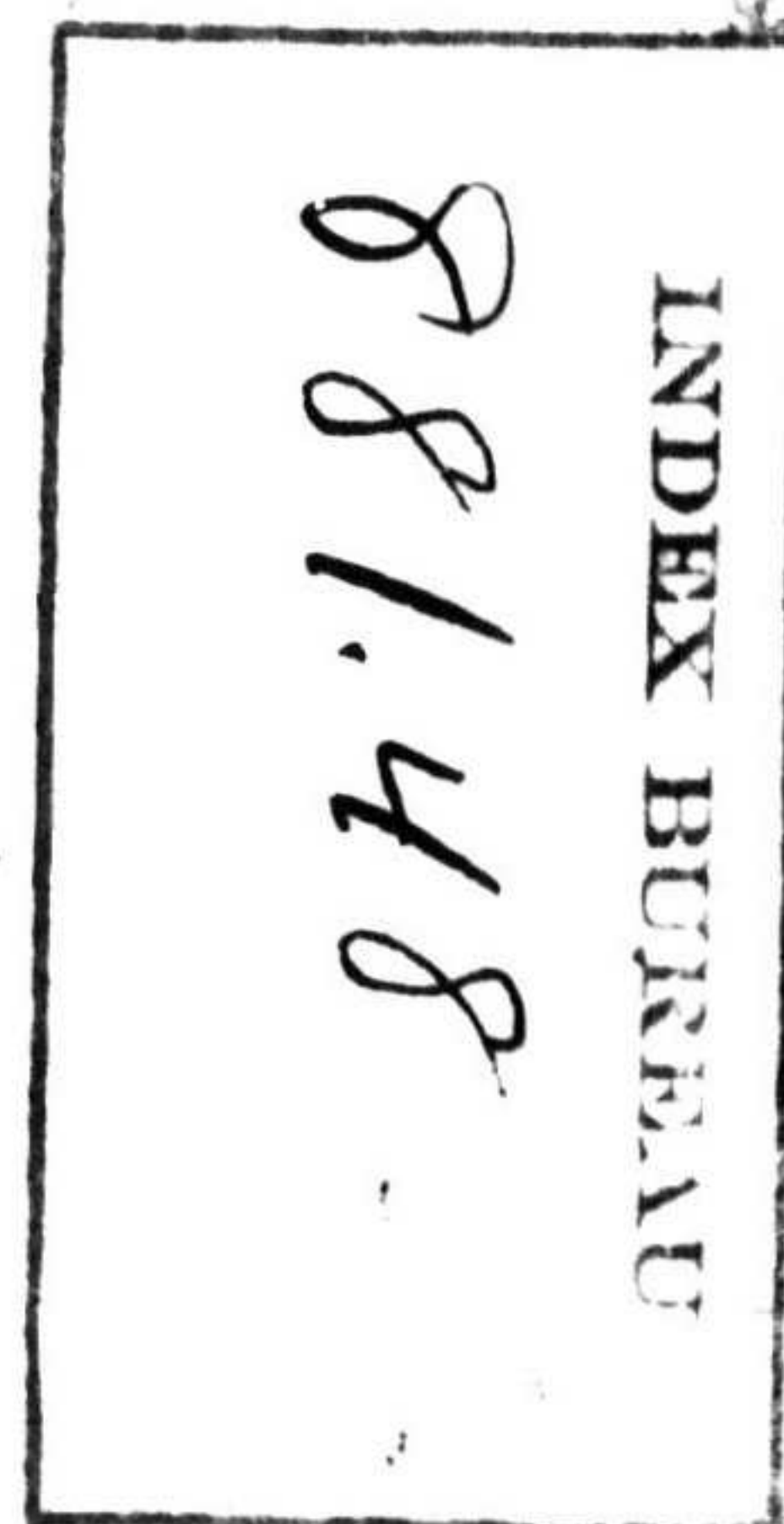
American Legation, Tangier.

March 1st, 1911.

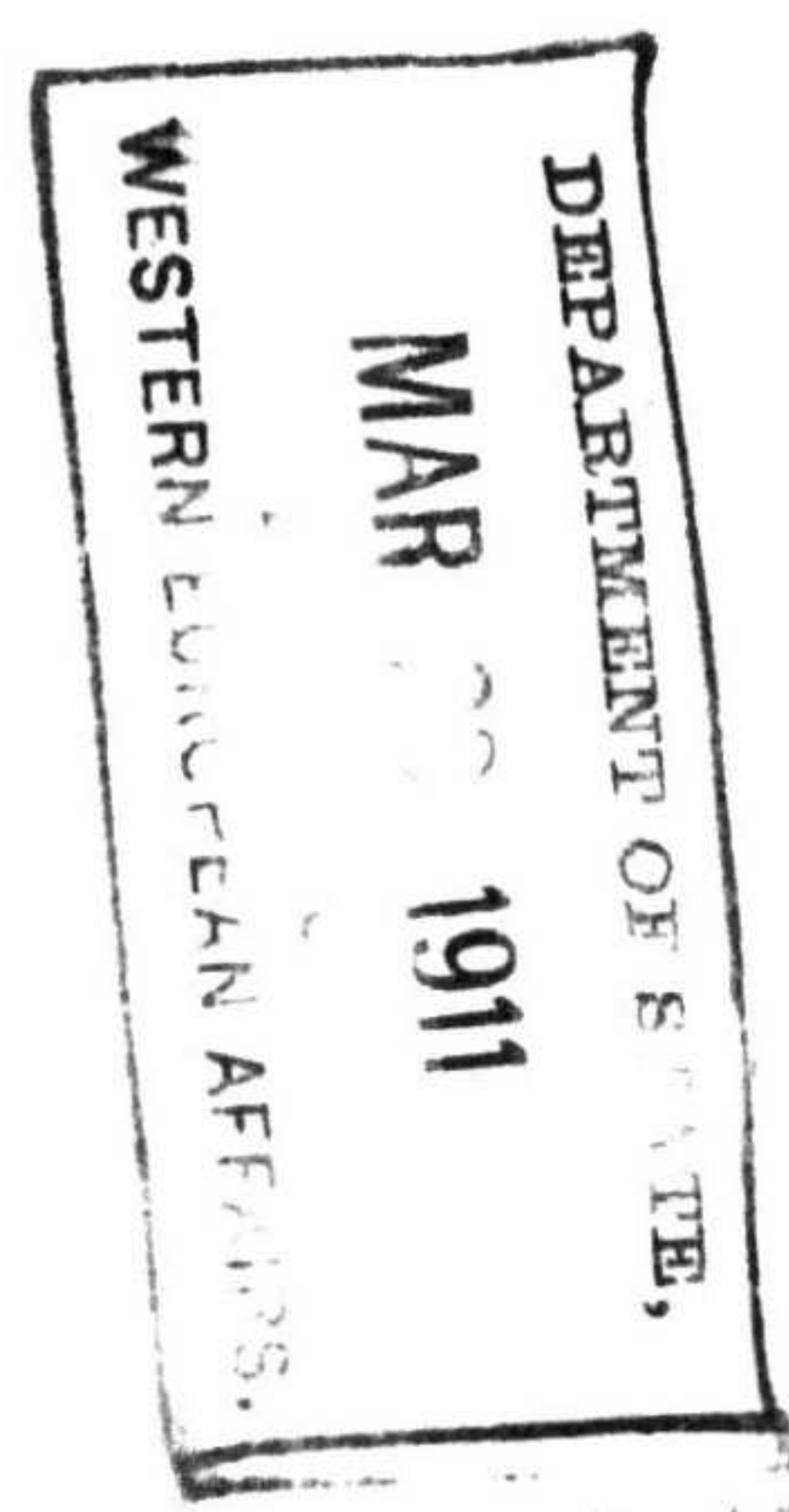


Oct. 84.

Ack'd. by card
Mar. 23, 1911
File me



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MAR 23 1911



The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:-

I have the honor to report that the crop conditions in the Sus country, which have been bad for several years and thus created a famine and much suffering, seem likely to be much improved during the present year. They have had rain there and have put in what grain they could secure for sowing, which I am advised will be enough greatly to relieve their suffering during the coming year though they could have put in considerable more were it not for their impoverished condition and inability to get all the seed needed.

I am advised by Mr. George Broome, our Consular Agent at Mogador, that the Consular Corps there took up collections from their respective nationals for the alleviation of the suffering Sus people outside the gates of Mogador numbering some 2000, which number I am advised has now been divided for the

better

better attention to their needs.

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps recently had an interview with Sid Mohamed Ben Mohamed El Guebbass, the Sultan's Foreign Minister at Tangier, with regard to the famine sufferers and Sid Guebbass advised him that he had noted the request to send monetary help to the sufferers, and that he had also communicated with Sid Mohamed El Mokri concerning their financial necessity. Sid Guebbass promised immediately to instruct the Basha of Mogador by wire to issue the necessary orders as to the gathering of the people outside of the city gates. The Diplomatic Corps also suggested to Sid Guebbass that a contract be concluded for a certain quantity of grain to be sent to the famine sufferers through Agadir and we are now advised that the matter has already been brought to the attention of the Sultan.

I also learn from a reliable source that there are a number of Sus people collected about numerous of the coast towns and that they are receiving help from the towns and friends and that while there is some suffering it is not as widespread as many of the reports we receive would seem to indicate.

The condition was reported as serious at Mogador by Mr. Broome, who said that all they had collected would be of only temporary help. I advised him that as we had but few of our nationals here that I did not deem it wise to try and take up a private subscription, especially as in view of the action of the Diplomatic Corps none of my Colleagues were doing so. My Colleagues do not think the matter serious enough to take any further action at this time.

I have asked Mr. Broome to keep me advised of the conditions and shall report further should the present action not prove sufficient and should the Diplomatic Corps conclude to attempt to secure aid from any of the foreign relief societies which I now think unlikely.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Andrew W. Lawrence". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name. A horizontal line is drawn above the signature.

American Minister.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CONSULAR BUREAU

Jan 2/17

Please advise

H. J. T. E.

Not

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JAN 2 1917

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Copy for the information of the
Department of State.

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE



MARSEILLE. FRANCE.

September 28th, 1916.

Mr. Fulton Brylawski,

Care of The Department of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir :

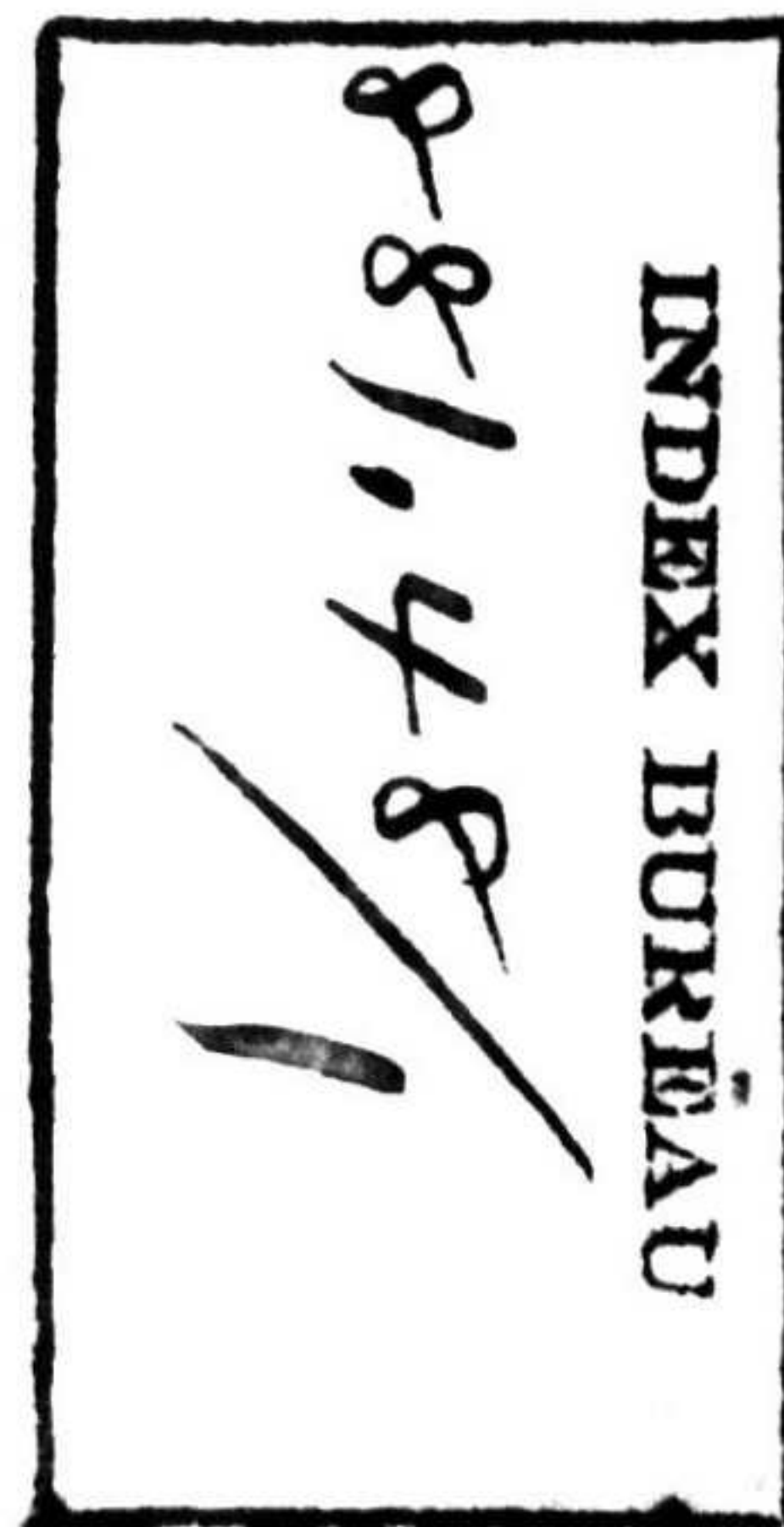
Referring to my letter of the 5th instant, in regard to the distribution of the fund of five thousand dollars with which I have been entrusted for the relief of Jews in Algeria, Tunis and Morocco, I have the honor to inform you that, in my opinion, which is based upon reports received from the American Consuls in these countries, the most practical means of distribution of this fund would be the following:

In Algeria, through the "Sous-Commission Israelite du Bureau de Bienfaisance Municipal" of Algiers, which could divide the funds with the similar commissions at Oran and Constantine, after consulting the American Consul at Algiers.

In Tunis, through a committee of prominent Hebrews, to be designated by the American Consul in that district.

In Morocco, through the Presidents of the Juntas of the Hebrew Communities in the more important towns.

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JAN 2 1917

The appointment of a central committee at Marseille would have been advisable only if shipments of supplies from France were required. But it appears that this is not the case, and my colleagues advise that the relief be extended in the form of funds rather than in commodities. Under these conditions a committee at Marseille would be more ornamental than useful. I would therefore request you to allow me to forward the funds in question to the Consuls at Algiers, Tunis and Tangier, to be disposed of as above.

As regards the respective needs of the various countries, I gather from the reports received that Tunis has the greatest number of destitute Hebrews, and should be given at least one-half of the funds, the other half to be divided about equally between Morocco and Algeria.

Please telegraph to me whether the above suggestions meet with your approval, and whether it is desired that an ^{or general} itemized ~~accounts~~ of expenditures be sent to you, either directly or through the Consuls of the districts concerned. I would request you also to ask the Department of State to what extent these consular officers may assist the committees in the distribution of the funds.

I enclose for your information copies of the reports

received

Mr. Fulton Brylawski,

-3-

received on this subject from the Consular officers referred to.

While assuring you of my cordial cooperation,

I am, Sir,

Very respectfully yours,


Consul-General.

Enclosures:

Three copies of reports.

310.

A true copy of
the signed original.


(Copy)

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

Tunis, Tunisia, September 22, 1916.

Alphonse Gaulin, Esquire,
The American Consul General,
Marseille.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of August 31st, requesting information as to the best methods of distributing relief among the needy Jews of the Regency of Tunisia.

The Tunisian Directory of 1914 - last edition - gives the approximate number of Jews in Tunisia as 150,000, of whom 43,000 in the city of Tunis. This number is divided into the Tunisian Jews and the "Portugese Group" which includes Jews of French, Italian, and all other nationalities. The two groups are sharply divided both as to their official organization, as well as in their economic condition; the Tunisians being chiefly small shopkeepers and workmen, while the "Portugese Group" includes the more wealthy individuals. This fact is recognized in the organized charities of the Jews themselves, all charitable benefits being divided at the proportion of 15% for the Portugese Group and 85% for the Tunisians. of Tunisia. It is stated here that the Jews are far more numerous than

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AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

A. G.

-2-

in Algeria, and the amount of total wealth much less. The proportion of pauperism in the total Tunisian population of Jews is given as 25% to 35% .

Poverty is chronic among this population, and help is greatly needed, but it is rather in the form of small assistance to the individual than in wholesale distribution of material, as is necessary in Asia Minor for instance. War has made living harder for more people, and the local charities have always more than they can attend to, so any assistance will be gladly welcomed.

How this assistance can be distributed through the entire Regency is difficult to say, nor does the probable amount available seem sufficient to justify the organization that would be necessary for the distribution of the funds or the regulation of their account. In the city of Tunis, this can be much more easily arranged, and the demands of the city alone would probably quickly absorb the entire amount.

The quickest way of distribution is to apportion the amount among the various Jewish charitable organizations, hospitals etc. As this may not be the intention of the donor, and as I have no way of checking the disbursements of poor relief by the charity organized for that purpose, a small organization of our own will

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

A. G.

-3-

be necessary if a full and reliable account of the disbus-
-xing is necessary.

Such an organization can be formed as follows:-

The appointment by you of a committee of three: for the
Tunisian Jews, Rabbi Israël de Haim Zeitoun, Vice-President
of the Rabbinical Tribunal of Tunis - the President is too
aged and infirm to act. For the Portugese Group Monsieur Ga-
briel Valensi fils, President of the Conseil de Direction
which is the official head of the Group - a man nearly as
infirm as the first President, but a French citizen, most
respected, and with a son to whom the active work will pro-
bably be delegated by him; and for the Donor, myself. The
Jewish members will appoint subordinates for the various dis-
tricts of the city, who will issue printed bons to the needy,
initialed both by their principal and by themselves.

These bons will be brought to me to be cashed, and signed
by the recipient. This will mean considerable work while it
lasts, but it will be quickly over. The aid will consist in
two or three francs or so, apiece, to buy medicines needed,
pay the rent for a week, or purchase food. It is about the
same as what the organized charity is already doing. This
arrangement seems at present to be about the only one by
which the payment of the money to the persons themselves in
need can be verified, and proper accounts rendered to the
Donor. Provided this suggestion is agreeable to you, all
that

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

A. G.

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that is necessary to commence the distribution is the appointment of the committee of three, as above, and the transmission of funds to this consulate. These funds will be divided between the two groups in the ratio of 15% and 85%, bonds will be printed, and work begun immediately. Accounts will be rendered when the funds are exhausted, or oftener if desired.

It will also be advisable that the Residence General of France at Tunis be advised of the matter.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) E. C. Kemp.

American Consul.

A true copy of
the signed original.
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(Copy)

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

Algiers, Algeria.

Aug. 29/ 1916.

Hon. Alphonse Gaulin,
American Consul General,
Marseille.

Sir:

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of Aug. 25-th, in regard to the relief of Jews in Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco. I have just had an interview with the vice-president and two members of the Sous-Commission Israélite du Bureau de Bienfaisance Municipal at Algiers. I explained the contents of your letter, and inquired as to the conditions of the Jews in Algeria, the necessity of relief, and the best possible method of distributing the funds placed at your disposal, in Algeria.

I was informed that there are six hundred Jewish families at Algiers who are receiving financial assistance, or about two thousand individuals. Precise information will be obtained as to the number of persons being relieved in Algiers, Oran, and Constantine, but it will be very difficult to secure information as to the necessities of the Jewish population throughout Algeria.

It is likely that the funds which you may be able to employ in Algiers can all be used in useful manner in the three cities above named. I believe that it would be best that money be transmitted to this consulate and then placed at the disposal of the Sous-Commission Israélite du Bureau de Bienfaisance Municipal at

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

-2-

Algiers, which could devide the funds with the commissions at Oran and Constantine, as agreed with myself. The commission at Algiers is made up of men of high standing. It is entirely responsible and theureghly acquainted with relief work, and I believe it could distribute the funds to better advantage than any special commission which might be created. On receipt of repert from the commission, I will write you again.

I am, Sir:

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) Dean B; Mason.

American Consul.

A true copy of
the signed orig-
inal.

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(Copy)

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

Tangier, Morocco,

September 1st. 1916.

Alphonse Gaulin, Esquire,
American Consul General,
Marseille.

Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 25th. 1916, concerning a certain sum which has been placed at your disposal, for the relief of the Jews in Algeria, Tunis and Morocco.

In view of the precise object of the donation, I assume that this benefaction has been made without regard to any conditions of distress arising directly from Military operations, as otherwise there would be no occasion for the distribution of funds in Morocco.

So far as I am advised, there is no appreciably greater distress among the Jews of this country than in normal times. I am convinced, however, that the Jewish communities of Morocco have always before them a certain number of cases, in which funds could always be used to great advantage.

As to means of distribution, I would suggest, so far as concerns Morocco, that the funds destined for expendi-

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

-2-

ture in this country, should be allocated to the Presidents of the Juntas of the Hebrew Communities in the more important towns. Also, I would esteem it more practical, owing to cost and difficulties of transportation to the interior, that the offerings in question should be made in the form of funds rather than in commodities.

The district of this Consulate General embraces all Morocco and it is safe to say, in the absence of all statistics, that there are some several hundreds of thousands of Jews in Morocco. It would be an absolute impossibility to give you any idea as to the number of needy cases.

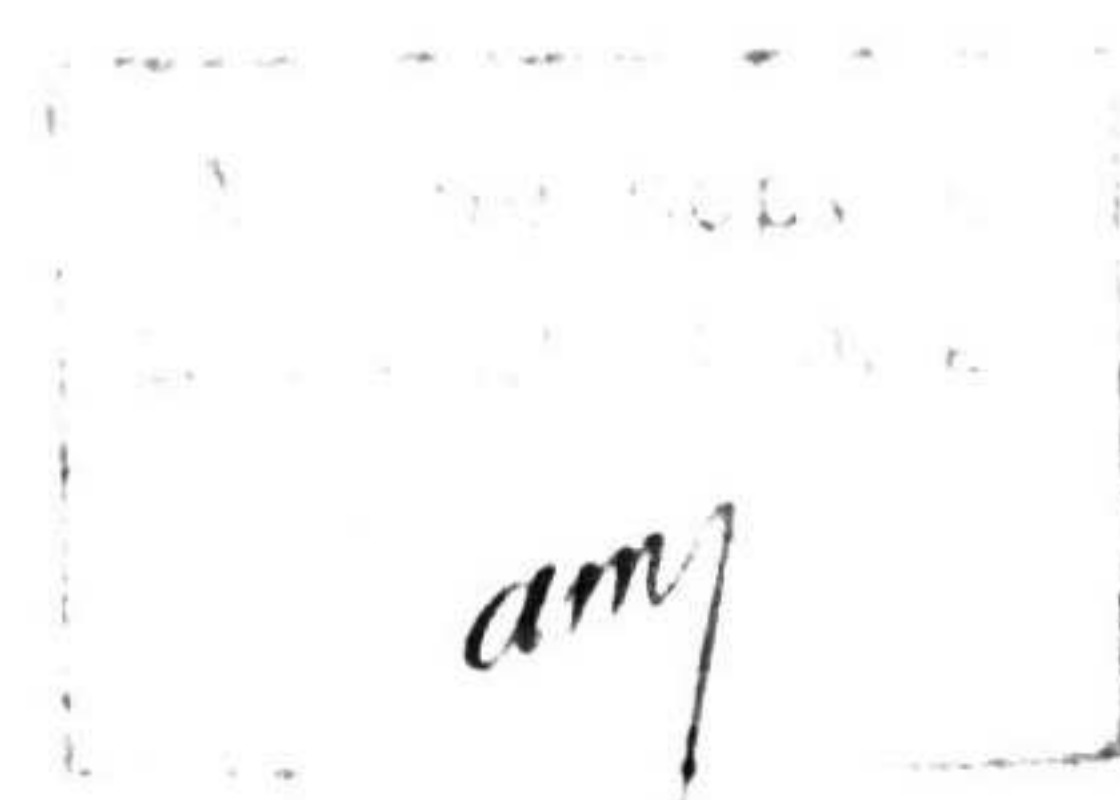
I may add that it will give me great pleasure to be the intermediary for the transmission of any American charities for distribution in Morocco, but I would much prefer that the actual expenditure should be effected through the agencies above indicated.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) Maxwell Blake.

American Consul General.



Department of State

Office of the ~~Section~~

DEPT

MENT OF STATE

JUL 16 1925

DIVISION OF

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

July 16, 1925.

WE: (Mr. Carter)

There would appear to be no legal objection to the collection of funds in this country and the exporting of such funds to Morocco for the purposes indicated in the letter. It is, of course, not known what action might be taken against the funds upon their arrival in Morocco, in view of the hostilities now being carried on in that country.

SO:
FMA:MEB

Jma

881.48

INDEX BUREAU
JUL
9
1925
DEPT OF STATE

1978 Yale Station
Yale University,
New Haven, Conn.

July 8, 1925

SOLICITOR'S OFFICE
JUL 15 1925
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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JLC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 10 1925
DIVISION OF
WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Hon. Frank B. Kellogg, Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary :

I have been thinking for some time that funds may be raised in the U.S. by individual contributions for the help of those in Morocco suffering directly or indirectly in consequence of the war going on in the Riff. It is not intended to raise these funds by means of a big public campaign. The funds raised in this way shall be used strictly for buying medical supplies and food stuff and for other strictly humanitarian purposes. The undeniable sufferings and hardships of those civilians whose safety is constantly being impaired, caused the sympathy of individuals interested in the Oriental questions. I should like therefore to inquire into the legality of raising such funds, if collected in the U.S. and transferring them for the sole and strict purposes as mentioned above.

Considering the needs of those suffering, I shall appreciate an early answer to my inquiries,

Sincerely yours,

N. Anabtawy
Nazmie H. Anabtawy

Yale Law School.

INDEX BUREAU
881.48/2

PTT
AUG 4 1925

2

August 4, 1925

In reply refer to
WR; 881.48/2

Mr. Nassim H. Anabtawy,
1978 Yale Station,
Yale University,
New Haven, Connecticut.

Sir:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of July 8, 1925, inquiring as to the legality of raising funds by private contributions in the United States and of transferring such funds to Morocco to be employed in relieving the suffering caused by the war in the Riff. You state that the funds so raised would be used strictly for buying medical supplies and food-stuffs and for other purely humanitarian purposes.

You are informed that there would be no legal objection, so far as the Government of the United States is concerned, to the collection of such funds in this country

881.48/2

country or to their transfer to Morocco. However, in view of the hostilities now being carried on in that country it is not known what action might be taken by the local authorities on the arrival of such funds in Morocco. In this connection, it is suggested that you may wish to communicate with the American Agent and Consul General at Tangier.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

For the Secretary of State:

WILLIAM AND HARRISON

Assistant Secretary.

~~WHE: HEB~~

WHE

CB
JULY 27 1925 PM
JULY 29 1925
MS

To
John
WHE

WHE

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

~~Confidential~~
SEE 858.142/10 FOR #621
FROM Sweden (Bliss) DATED Nov. 6, 1925
TO NAME 1-1127 GPO

REGARDING:

Inquiry of Swedish Red Cross as to why International Red Cross at Geneva had made no effort to bring Red Cross assistance to the Riffians.

qms

INDEX BUREAU

881.48/3

IDEA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Stockholm, November 6, 1925.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ FOR THE SECRETARY
AND UNDERSECRETARY.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that some five or six months ago the Swedish Red Cross was induced, at the instigation of Sven Hedin (the well-known Swedish explorer and writer, whose activities on behalf of Germany during the war are well known to the Department), to ask the International Red Cross at Geneva why it had made no effort to bring Red Cross assistance to the Riffians in their struggle with the French and Spanish. The Geneva Red Cross replied that it had received no request for aid from the Riff nor any previous suggestion from a member that the war in Morocco presented a field for

for

CONFIDENTIAL

for extending its activities.

The Red Cross at Geneva, however, communicated with the Spanish authorities, from whom it received a decided rebuff, with the information that the manner in which the Riffians waged war and their cruel and barbarous treatment of the Spanish dead and wounded were such that Spain could not permit any Red Cross assistance to be given them. This information was duly conveyed to the Swedish Red Cross from Geneva.

A few weeks ago the matter was raised in the Swedish papers by Sven Hedin, who intimated that the efforts of the Swedish Red Cross had remained without answer from the Geneva organization. Thereupon, the Swedish Red Cross published a statement containing, essentially, the facts as stated above. This appears to have been the first intimation had by either the Spanish or French Ministers here of the action of the Swedish Red Cross. They both made representations to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the French Minister going so far, I am told, as to say that he considered the matter an unfriendly act. The Spanish Minister, whose Government, by the way, had failed to inform him of the matter, was less vigorous in his protest. It seems that the Minister for Foreign Affairs was very much embarrassed, particularly as the inquiry to the Geneva Red Cross had been signed by Prince Carl, the President of the Swedish body. He denied all knowledge of the matter, expressed his regrets and stated that the step complained of would never have been taken had the subject been first

first

first brought to his attention. This apparently closed the incident.

My Spanish colleague tells me that, shortly thereafter, he published an article in one of the papers here describing how the Riffians treated the Spanish prisoners and mutilated the bodies of the dead, so that the Swedes might learn of the barbarity of the tribesmen whom Spain was fighting. Since then, he further tells me, Prince Carl has twice spoken to him of the article, saying that he had had no idea before of the outrageous actions of the Riffians. This is tantamount, I suppose, to expressing his regret for having sent the letter to the Geneva Red Cross.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Robert Woods Bliss

In quintuplicate.
File No. 814.2

AMERICAN CONSULATE.

Casablanca, Morocco, March 1, 1927.

SUBJECT: Extensive Misery Among Inhabitants of French Morocco.

1-1055

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.



SIR:

I have the honor to report to the Department that the inhabitants of large sections of French Morocco are in great misery from lack of food.

As French Morocco is essentially an agricultural country and fully 90% of the inhabitants is engaged in farming or allied occupations, crop failures are always very serious events. For the last two years the harvests have ranged from mediocre to none at all on account of lack of rainfall in the various sections of the country. The districts that have been most affected have been those in the Atlas region, Tadla, Oued Zem, Marrakech, Souss, Haoua, Chiadma, southern Abda and part of the Gharb.

In addition to the crop failures themselves, the farmers have been obliged to pay the Tertib (agricultural) tax on the basis of average harvests. The heavy expenses caused by the visit to France of the Sultan and a large group of Pashas, Caids and other notables, as well as the visit of the Sultan to the Souss and other southern regions, have also been a terrible drain on the country. The methods of tax collection and the heavy imposts levied for the Sultan's two visits have much aggravated the situation, [as the greed and corruption of the local Moorish officials, winked at and even connived at by the French Control Authorities, result in

the

the poor Moorish peasant paying thrice or four times what the tax or levy would be if honestly and properly collected.] It is simply a variation of the historical "farming out" of taxes.

In many districts the inhabitants, having nothing to live upon, have abandoned their homes and properties to flock to the cities, and those that remain are in many cases living upon roots, herbs and even grass. This shocking condition has been reported to this office by an American citizen who owns an automobile transport service for merchandise and whose business takes him to all corners of the Protectorate. The cities are crowded with beggars, far more than at any time in my three years' sojourn in the country. In several of the larger centers, notably Marra-kech, the situation as regards the unemployed and vagrants has become so serious that the French authorities have been obliged to remove those that can not be cared for by their respective tribes to camps on the outskirts of the municipalities, where they are kept under a guard and fed barely enough to keep soul and body together. It must be admitted that the French are doing all that they can with the limited funds at their disposal for charitable purposes. Unfortunately, little aid is obtainable from wealthy natives, for relief work, as it is understood by Westerners, is unknown to them, the only kind they comprehend being promiscuous giving of small alms.

The failure of the crops has been clearly shown by the large importations of wheat, flour and maize, as in a normal year Morocco buys little or none of these commodities abroad. The wheat has been coming from France, from Algeria and from Canada, the flour mainly from France and the United States, and the maize from Italy. The latter is being fed to the natives.

Present

Present conditions will last at least until July, when the next harvest comes around. In all sections of French Morocco, except the Souss and Haha-Chiadma, the rainfall has been exceptionally heavy this year, in some districts almost too much--an extremely rare condition--and an excellent crop seems assured. In the two afore-mentioned districts and in the Gharb, where the clay soil has retained the heavy rainfall in great lakes on the plains, the crops will be poor again. However, if the other sections enjoy prosperity, it will be possible to supply these deficient in yield.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. Earle Russell

H. Earle Russell
American Consul.

IN QUINTUPLICATE

COPY TO TANGIER

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HER:R